



Useful Datasets for Development Economics Research

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Useful Datasets for Development Economics Research

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1 Micro-level data

1) International Household Survey Network (IHSN)

URL: <http://www.internationalsurveysnetwork.org/>

- Type: Longitudinal/Cross-sectional
- Regions: All countries
- Unit level: Individual/Household
- Huge catalog of data from household surveys and censuses, mainly for developing countries
- Provides basic information on the surveys as well as links and contact information

2) Keeping Track by the UK Office of National Statistics and ISER

URL: <http://iserwww.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/keeptrack/index.php>

- Type: Longitudinal/Cross-sectional
- Regions: All countries
- Unit level: Individual/Household
- Large catalog of longitudinal data, with basic search functions and contact information
- The database lets you search by Country, type of unit responsible, period, main topics covered
- Industrialized and developing country sources

3) Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)

URL: http://ipl.econ.duke.edu/dthomas/dev_data/index.html

- Type: Longitudinal

¹If you have questions or error corrections, please email me at pnikolov@fas.harvard.edu

- Regions: Latin America, Asia, Europe, Africa
- Unit level: Individual/Household
- Large collection of links to household surveys
- Lets you search by geographic region, by country, topic module
- Based on the criteria, lets you see the name of the survey that matches you query
- Some links to firm-level, macro data and national statistical offices
- Also has cutting-edge working papers on development economics topics

4) Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)

URL: <http://www.measuredhs.com/>

- Type: Some longitudinal/mostly cross-sectional
- Regions: All continents
- Unit level: Individual
- Probably the best source for demographic and health data; comparable surveys for some 70 countries. Very good coverage for Africa
- Survey data on request; summary statistics and good documentation openly accessible on website
- Some countries have specialized surveys on HIV, gender etc. Some newer ones also have GIS coordinates

5) Multi Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) by UNICEF

URL: <http://www.childinfo.org/>

- Type: Cross-sectional
- Regions: All continents
- Unit level: Individuals
- Focuses on women and children only
- Questionnaires similar to DHS but a better resource for child labor and AIDS
- Need to register to get access to datasets

6) World Bank Living Standards Measurement Study Household Surveys (LSMS)

URL: <http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTLSMS/0,content>

- Type: Some longitudinal/mostly cross-sectional
- Regions: All continents

- Unit level: Household
- Started in 1980s
- Some of the best-known surveys on this topic (along with DHS)
- Some longitudinal surveys
- Also has some tools for using household data

7) RAND Family Life Surveys

URL: <http://www.rand.org/labor/FLS/>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Southeast Asia, South Asia, Latin America
- Unit level: Individuals/Households
- Surveys only conducted by the RAND Corporation
- In-depth surveys on Malaysia, Indonesia, Guatemala and Matlab (a region in Bangladesh)
- Also holds other household, firm and national economic surveys for Indonesia

8) Abt Associates Surveys

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: All continents
- Unit level: Individual/Household
- Surveys related to impact evaluation projects
- Contact IHResourceCenter@abtassociates.com for more information on data availability

9) World Bank Research Datasets - Poverty

URL: <http://econ.worldbank.org/resource.php?type=18&topic=19>

- Type: Cross-sectional/Panel
- Regions: All continents
- Unit level: Regions
- Lists a variety of datasets available at the World Bank by research program: conflict, finance, human development, international migration, macroeconomics, poverty research, sustainable development, trade research
- Often these data have been used for studies at the World Bank – check for papers before using it

10) International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

URL: <http://www.ifpri.org/data/dataset.htm>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: All continents
- Unit level: Household
- Mainly household and community-level surveys related to food security and production
- Also has some institutional data, social accounting matrixes and geospatial data
- Need to request data through an online form

11) World Bank Africa Household Survey Databank

URL: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/0,,contentMDK:20206013>

- Type: Longitudinal/Cross-sectional
- Regions: All continents
- Unit level: Household
- Features a ‘survey navigator’ for finding data

12) Various health datasets (maintained by John Kane at Oswego State University of New York)

URL: <http://www.oswego.edu/~economic/hea-data.htm>

- Type: Longitudinal/Cross-sectional
- Regions: Mostly US
- Unit level: Individual/Household
- Mainly US data on health-related issues

13) Kaiser Family Foundation list of data sources

URL: <http://www.kaiseredu.org/research.asp?id=268>

- Type: Longitudinal/Cross-sectional/Panel
- Regions: Mostly US
- Unit level: Individual/Household
- Excellent list of datasets (mainly US)
- Categories include public health, health care financing and delivery, state level data, and related sources

14) Not-only-economic data UCLA Data Archives Home

URL: <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/issr/da/>

- Type: Longitudinal/Cross-sectional/Panel

- Regions: Mostly US
- Unit level: Individual/Household
- Holds some older surveys, often US political polls, election studies and attitude data

15) Jameel Poverty Action Lab

URL: <http://www.povertyactionlab.org/JPALdata/>

- Type: Experimental
- Regions: Africa, Latin America, Asia
- Unit level: Individual
- You can download the datasets that were created in their evaluations

16) Michigan ICPSR

URL: <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/access/index.html>

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/ICPSR/access/subject.html>

- Type: Longitudinal/Cross-sectional
- Regions: All continents
- Unit level: Individual/Household
- The site has datasets devoted to discipline-related subject areas such as aging, criminal justice, education, health, and substance abuse

17) Harvard Institute for Global Health (HIGH)

- Type: Longitudinal/Cross-sectional
- Regions: Mostly developing countries
- Unit level: Country/Individual/Household
- Contact HIGH for available datasets at globalhealth@harvard.edu

18) National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)

URL: <http://www.nber.org/data/>

- Type: Longitudinal/Cross-sectional
- Regions: Mostly US
- Unit level: Individual/Household
- Mostly US- and non-health datasets but many very individual-level datasets

19) Institute for Quantitative Social Studies (IQSS)

URL: <http://dvn.iq.harvard.edu/dvn/>

- Type: Longitudinal/Cross-sectional
- Regions: All continents
- Unit level: Individual/Household/Country

20) Yale Economic Growth Center

URL: <http://www.econ.yale.edu/~egcenter/special.htm>

- Type: Longitudinal/Cross-sectional
- Regions: Asia, Africa
- Unit level: Individual/Household
- Household surveys from the Bicol region of the Philippines, the ICRISAT village-level study from India and the ICRISAT plot-level production study from Burkina Faso

21) Brazilian Datasets

URL: <http://www.ibge.gov.br>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Brazil
- Unit level: Individual
- Based on the Demographic Census (Censo Demografico) and the National Household Sample Survey (Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicilios—PNAD), this dataset offers information on everything from trade and population statistics to national accounting and migration
- Much of the information, however, is available only in Portuguese

22) Social Networks Project

URL: <http://www.malawi.pop.upenn.edu/Level%202/level2.html>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Kenya, Malawi
- Unit level: Individuals
- Modules on various social networks, (e.g. HIV/AIDS networks, family planning networks)

23) Social Networks Project

<http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/FIELDWORK/dataset.html>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household

- Various topics

23) IPUMS

<https://international.ipums.org/international/>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- Various topics

24) Open Data Impacts

<http://www.opendataimpacts.net/2011/06/a-whole-lot-of-development-datasets/>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- Various topics

25) Center for Global Development

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/?type=57>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- Covers datasets used by CGD working papers

26) University of Nottingham

<https://sites.google.com/site/medevecon/development-economics/devecondata/micro>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- Covers various other dataset sources

27) Africa Successes NBER Project

<http://www.nber.org/AfricanSuccesses/data.html>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- Covers various datasets from the various Africa Successes NBER Projects

28) Princeton Data and Statistical Services

<http://dss.princeton.edu/cgi-bin/dataresources/newdataresources.cgi?term=159>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- Covers various education topics for Africa

29) South Africa Datasets

<http://www.psppd.org.za/Page/DataSets>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- Covers various labor and education topics for Africa

30) IFPRI Household Datasets

<http://www.ifpri.org/category/dataset-type/household-and-community-level-surveys>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- Covers various labor and education topics for Africa

31) University of Cape Town SALDRU Unit

<http://www.saldru.uct.ac.za/home/index.php?/Table/Surveys/>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- Covers various labor and education topics for South Africa

32) DevelopmentData

http://www.developmentdata.org/latest_additions.htm

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- Covers various topics for developing countries

33) Household Budget Surveys

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- Various country level budget surveys: google search “budget” “household” “survey”; Usually contain panel datasets on basic socio-economic, expenditures for the household.

34) Household Budget Surveys

<http://openmicrodata.wordpress.com/2010/02/10/tanzania-household-budget-survey-2007/>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- Various African countries

35) RAND surveys

<http://www.rand.org/labor/FLS.html>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- Various longitudinal surveys

36) Millenium Challenge Corporation (MCC)

<http://www.mcc.gov/pages/results/evaluations#activity-content-05>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- MCC evaluations

37) DataFirst

<http://www.datafirst.uct.ac.za/home/>

- Type: Longitudinal
- Regions: Worldwide
- Unit level: Individuals/Household
- African datasets

2 Macro-level data

1) World Bank PovcalNet

URL: <http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/jsp/index.jsp>

- Type: Panel
- Regions: All countries
- Unit level: Country
- Interactive tool to calculate your own poverty lines and compare them across countries. PovcalNet is an interactive computational tool that allows you to replicate the calculations made by the World Bank's researchers in estimating the extent of absolute poverty in the world, including the \$1 a day poverty measures.

2) World Bank Health, Nutrition and Population Statistic Database (HNPStats)

URL: <http://devdata.worldbank.org/hnpstats/>

- Type: Panel
- Regions: All countries
- Unit level: Country
- A variety of health, nutrition, and population indicators on most countries
- Also features a data query system if you want to select your own comparison countries and time periods

3) Global Development Finance (GDF Online)

URL: <http://lib.harvard.edu/e-resources/details/g/gdfonlin.html>

- Type: Panel
- Regions: All countries
- Unit level: Country
- Debt and financial flow data of the World Bank
- Link is to access point for Harvard affiliates

4) United Nations Commodity Statistics Database (COMTRADE)

URL: <http://lib.harvard.edu/e-resources/details/c/comtrade.html>

- Type: Panel
- Regions: All countries
- Unit level: Country

- Provides commodity trade data for all available countries and areas since 1962
- Link is to access point for Harvard affiliates

5) United Nations Common Database (UNCDB)

URL: <http://lib.harvard.edu/e-resources/details/u/uncommdb.html>

- Type: Panel
- Regions: All countries
- Unit level: Country
- UN's statistical database with more than 300 statistical series from UN and other International Organizations
- Link is to access point for Harvard affiliates

6) World Development Indicators (WDI Online)

URL: <http://lib.harvard.edu/e-resources/details/w/wdionlin.html>

- Type: Panel
- Regions: All countries
- Unit level: Country
- Most commonly used cross-country indicators
- Link is to access point for Harvard affiliates

– Useful variable definitions at the University of Michigan: <http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/wdi/wdivar>

7) Center for International Development Datasets

URL: <http://www.cid.harvard.edu/ciddata/ciddata.html>

- Type: Longitudinal/Cross-sectional
- Regions: Mostly developing countries
- Unit level: Country/Individual/Household
- This page is a depository for data developed through research at the Center for International Development at Harvard University (CID). Often the data are associated with a research paper and, thus, the paper is also available for downloading.

8) OECD Aid Statistics

URL: http://www.oecd.org/departement/0,2688,en_2649_34447_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

- Type: Panel

- Regions: All member countries
- Unit level: Country
- The OECD has some data on official and private aid flows from its member countries.

9) Penn World Tables American Economic Association (AEA)

URL: <http://pwt.econ.upenn.edu/>

- Type: Panel
- Regions: All countries
- Unit level: Country
- The Penn World Table provides purchasing power parity and national income accounts converted to international prices for 188 countries for some or all of the years 1950-2004.
- The AEA has Resources for Economists with many useful things for economists, but in particular there is a collection of World and Non-US Data with further links to datasets including indices and world data, country studies, indices of economic freedom and corruption, international organizations, and regional and national datasets.

10) COMTRADE

URL: <http://comtrade.un.org/>

- Type: Panel
 - Regions: All countries
 - Unit level: Country
- Comtrade, the United Nations' commodity statistics database provides commodity trade data for all available countries and areas since 1962

11) Balance of Payments

URL: <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.eresource:imfbopay>

- Type: Panel
- Regions: All countries
- Unit level: Country

Time series data from 1948 summarizing the economic transactions of an economy with the rest of the world. It reports total goods, services, factor income, and current transfers an economy receives from or provides to the rest of the world as well as capital transfers and changes in each economy's external financial claims and liabilities.

12) UNCDB

URL: <http://lib.harvard.edu/e-resources/details/u/uncommdb.html>

- Type: Panel
- Regions: All countries
- Unit level: Country

UN's statistical database with more than 300 statistical series from UN and other international organizations. Provides data on demography, finance, growth, investment, trade, development indicators, social development indicators, top export, top import partners

13) CIA World Factbook

URL: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

- Type: Panel
- Regions: All countries
- Unit level: Country
- The CIA Factbook can be an interesting source of information for summary statistics and general information about specific countries.

14) World Bank Institute - Governance

URL: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/WBI/EXTWBIGOVANTCOR/0,,contentMDK:2067>

- Type: Panel
- Regions: All countries
- Unit level: Country
- Data on voice, accountability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law and corruption.

15) International Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO)

URL: <http://www.prio.no/>

- Type: Panel
- Regions: All continents
- Unit level: Country
- Conflict databases (on armed conflicts, and battle deaths)